

TO THE CITIZENS OF MARYLAND.

THE Visitors and Friends of St. John's College feel themselves deeply concerned at the repeated attempts to destroy this noble institution. It is certainly to be lamented by all friends to the liberal instruction of youth, and the consequent welfare of the state, that the various slanders, disseminated with a view to its destruction, have diminished the reputation, which for several years it had enjoyed. Its trustees, then, earnestly intreat their fellow-citizens who are anxious to confer on their children the inestimable benefits of a complete education, not to take assertion for proof, but to inquire, without prejudice, respecting the advantages afforded by St. John's college, and to compare it with other seminaries. They solicit the public attention to a plain correct statement of the condition of the college, its regulations, plan of education and discipline.

Its buildings are spacious, and in all respects convenient. Within them is carried on an excellent boarding-house, in which students are superintended by teachers, who are boarders.

The price of board, washing, lodging, fire and candles, is £. 50 per annum, to be paid quarterly.

The price of tuition, fire-wood in the schools, pens and ink, is £. 6 10 0; so that the whole expense to a student, exclusive of books and cloathing and pocket money, may be only £. 36 10 0 per annum, which, it is presumed, is inferior to that of any other seminary within the United States affording equal advantages.

FROM the following resolves which have been passed from time to time, and which are now subsisting resolutions, and which have several years operated as laws of the institution, may be seen the discipline and plan of education in St. John's College.

RESOLVED, That it be the duty of the principal of St. John's college to superintend the said college, according to regulations hereafter to be established, and, in conjunction with the vice-principal, to teach the higher authors in Latin and Greek, and the other branches of science usually taught in other American colleges.

RESOLVED, That each boy in the grammar school, except the two first classes, attend half an hour each day, during college hours, at the discretion of the professor of languages, to learn writing of such kinds, as the guardian of such boy shall desire; that each boy in the two first classes shall attend the master of writing and arithmetic one hour in the forenoon of each day, during college hours, at the discretion of the said professor, for the purpose of learning writing, arithmetic in all its branches, Surveying, Dialling and Navigation, or such of the said sciences as the guardian of such boy shall desire.

RESOLVED, That the following regulations be observed in the grammar school until further orders.

No boys to be admitted until they can read tolerably well, and have made such progress in writing as to shape and join their letters.

Wittenhall's Latin Grammar, Philadelphia edition, to be used.

When the etymology and rules for the genders and nouns are committed to memory, Greenwood's Vocabulary shall be entered on. In reading this, the boys are to learn well the declensions of nouns substantive, and the rules for their genders, the declension and comparison of nouns adjective, and the conjugation of verbs. They are likewise, by way of nightly exercise, to write off a noun, or some tenses of a verb. The learning of the syntax by morning lessons, is to be commenced during the study of the Vocabulary, and continued until it shall be perfectly acquired.

Sententiae pueriles shall follow the syntax, to teach the application of its more general rules. It will be proper too, for boys to write exercises from book Davis's *Admiculum Puerile*, for this purpose, to be preferred, if it can be procured.

Next may be read, with translations, Gordery, Aesop's Fables, Erasmus, and (if convenient,) Eutropius, or Cornelius Nepos. After these, no translations to be used. In reading those books, the greatest attention is to be paid to parsing. The grammar rules are to be accurately repeated, and care to be taken by the masters to make the scholars understand the application of the rules.

Selectae Veteri, Selectae e Profanis and Cæsar's Commentaries, are to come next. Whilst engaged in these, the scholars are to acquire Prosody by morning lessons.

Next Ovid's Metamorphosis, and, (at the discretion of the professor,) Ovid's Epistles, or Detribus, Sallust, Terence and Virgil. Scanning to be constantly enforced; and the greatest attention paid to the rules of Prosody, and to reading with propriety and elegance. At the same time Wittenhall's Greek Grammar is to be learned, and, (if possible,) the Greek Testament before Virgil shall be finished.

After Virgil, shall be read in the following order: Horace, Juvenal and Cicero's Orations. After the Greek Testament, Lucian, Homer, Xenophon, Theocritus, and perhaps Anacreon. Horace and Juvenal, except the obscene and improper parts, to be gone through. The others to be read only in part. But of Ovid, at least the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th and 13th books. Of Virgil, the Eclogues, Georgics, and 6 books of the Eneid. Of Terence, four plays. Of Lucian, the short dialogues, and at least three of the longer dialogues. Of Homer, six books. Of Xenophon, four books. Of Theocritus, three Idyllia. A poet to be read one part, and a prose author the other part of the day, whilst the boys are reading Latin only. And when they begin the Greek, they shall, in like manner, read the two languages alternately. As some knowledge of the Heathen Mythology is necessary for understanding the Poets, the boys, in reading their lessons, shall be called upon to give an account of proper names. Besides the dictionaries, which are proper for teaching this knowledge, it is recommended that the boys be furnished with Tooke's Pantheon.

At proper seasons, Sterling's, or some other short Treatise of Rhetoric, is to be taught.

Exercises to be regularly shewn, and grammar lessons said every morning, by all the school. When the boys begin Selectae Veteri, they shall translate a part of it at least once a week, by way of exercise. So of Selectae e Profanis.

Whilst reading the higher classics the scholars shall be sometimes exercised in writing themes; and the three first classes shall be frequently exercised in translating English into Latin.

In making exercises from Davis's *Admiculum Puerile*, the cautions are to be particularly attended to. Hexameter and Pentameter verses are also to be made.

Exercises to be always written fair, and in straight lines, without blots or corrections.

The boys are to be taught the rules for the pretenses and supines; and, to make them expert, they are to conjugate in the beginning of each afternoon. The learners of Greek are to conjugate a verb in at least one of its voices; and it will be proper to join several classes together, and make them sometimes repeat a part of the grammar, when they meet in the afternoon, instead of the verb.

Whilst reading the Poets, the boys shall each, once a week, for the morning's exercise, repeat some lines from memory.

In saying their lessons the boys shall be required to give an account of such customs, or such parts of History, as may therein be mentioned or alluded to. And, as an acquaintance with Grecian and Roman manners conduces much to a right understanding of the higher classics, it will be proper for the teachers to recommend a careful perusal, at leisure hours, of Kennett's Antiquities, Goldsmith's Greek and Roman Histories, and Vertot's Revolutions of the Roman Republic.

The greatest attention shall be paid to good order and regularity. Each class is to keep the place assigned to it by the Professor. The boys shall be obliged to give their whole attention to business, whilst in school; and be taught the habit, whatever they do, of doing it well.

The three upper classes shall be frequently exercised in translating English into Latin. On every Saturday morning the students shall be exercised in delivering select speeches in English, and there shall be such an arrangement, as that each boy shall perform this exercise once a fortnight. RESOLVED, That a punctual attendance at the hours appointed for business in the college, be strictly enforced; that every student ought to be impressed with an idea, that his attendance will not be dispensed with, unless for sickness, or for some reason which may, by the professor of the school, be deemed satisfactory; and that no frivolous excuse be deemed sufficient.

That to procure the regular attendance of the students, the bell shall begin to ring, at each appointed time of meeting, and continue to ring ten minutes; that immediately after the ringing, a roll shall be called over, in which the absentees shall be carefully marked; that this roll be examined once a week, at the discretion of the professors, the absentees called on, and punished for each absence, unless they can satisfy their respective professors, that there was a sufficient reason for their non-attendance.

That all profane swearing, indecent conversation, gaming, rude or unmannerly behavior, and every thing immoral, be strictly prohibited and punished; that every student behave himself in a decent manner in school, out of doors, and at his lodgings; that no student shall be absent from his lodgings at a late or unreasonable hour; and that any student, who shall offend against this rule, shall be called to account and punished; that the professors and masters inquire frequently into the conduct of the students at their lodgings, and for that purpose, that some one or more of them call at each lodging-house once a month.

That the students be dismissed, at the going out of the schools, by ringing of the bell,

RESOLVED, That the principal of St. John's college shall take care that the plan of education, and the regulations adopted by this board, be strictly observed in all the schools; that for this purpose, he shall frequently inspect the several schools, and, whenever called upon by the board, shall report the condition of the college; and that a copy of each resolve for the regulation of the college, shall be delivered to the principal, and by him communicated to the professors, masters and tutors, who shall give him information, whenever required, concerning their respective schools.

RESOLVED, That immediately after the ringing of the bell each morning, the professors, masters, tutors and students, shall be assembled, a roll, containing the names of all the students called over, and the names of the absentees shall be carefully marked; that some one of the professors, masters and tutors, shall perform Divine service, consisting of prayer, and the reading of some select portions of the Holy Scripture; that there be an established form of prayer, in which the address to the Supreme Being shall be agreeable to the liberal catholic foundation of St. John's college, and not repugnant to the tenets of any denomination of christians; provided nevertheless, that no student, whose parent or guardian shall, by writing to the principal, request that his attendance may be dispensed with, shall be obliged to attend the said service.

RESOLVED, That the said form of prayer, and the selections from the Scripture, be left to the discretion of a majority of the professors, subject to the revision of, and alteration of this board; and that the professors report a form of prayer and selection, as aforesaid, to this board, at its next quarterly meeting.

RESOLVED, That the roll aforesaid be examined once in each week, in the presence of the professors, tutors and students, and the absentees from prayer be punished for each offence, in the manner heretofore prescribed, or by fine, not exceeding two shillings and six-pence current money for each offence, at the discretion of the professors.

RESOLVED, That no scholar be admitted into the philosophy school, without having previously learned at the college, or elsewhere, writing and arithmetic, and at least as much Latin and Greek as would qualify him to be of the first class in the grammar school.

RESOLVED, That the course of education in the philosophy schools be completed in three years; and that the scholars in the said schools constitute not more than three classes, viz. Senior Class, the Junior Class, and the Novitiate Class; that of the scholars at present belonging to the college there be formed two classes; that the vice-principal immediately enter on his duty; that some of the higher authors in Latin and Greek, Logic and Moral Philosophy, constitute, at present, the department of the vice-principal; that the whole course of education in the philosophy schools shall be laid down, at the next meeting of the board on the fifth day of July next; that at the said meeting the respective departments of the principal and vice-principal be fully ascertained; and that, in the mean-time, the principal shall teach the said two classes such of the sciences usually taught in other American colleges as he shall think proper.

RESOLVED, That the following plan for the course of education in the philosophy schools be adopted; provided nevertheless, that in as much as, in the opening of the said schools, it is impracticable to pursue the said plan exactly, the principal shall conform thereto, as nearly as may be, for the present, taking care so to regulate the said schools, that the said plan may be carried fully into effect as early as possible.

PLAN OF EDUCATION IN THE PHILOSOPHY SCHOOLS.

Novitiate class, under the vice-principal, to learn in the order wherein they stand. Higher classics, if not completed before. Livy. Parts of Xenophon, Plato or Demosthenes. Logic and Metaphysics. N. B. English and Latin exercises to be assigned at discretion. And syllogistic disputation to be held at least once a month.

Novitiate class, under the Principal, &c. Arithmetical reviewed. Algebra. Logarithmal Arithmetic, with its application to compound interest. Annuities and Reversions. Euclid. Plain Trigonometry. Spherical Trigonometry. Heights and Distances.

Junior class, under the vice-principal, &c. Geography, with the use of the terrestrial Globe. Well's Dionysius. Introduction to Rhetoric. Horace's Art of Poetry, critically. Longinus. Aristotle's Poetics. Parts of Quintilian. Forensic Disputation at least once a month.

Junior class, under the principal, &c. Surveying. Principles of Navigation. Mensuration. Fortification. Conic Sections. Nature and Principles of Fluxions. Gunnery.

Senior class, under the vice-principal, &c. Moral Philosophy. Epicetus. Tully's Offices. Xenophon's Memorabilia. Introduction to Civil History.

Senior class, under the principal, &c. Natural Philosophy. Astronomy. Use of the celestial Globe. Projections of the Sphere. Chronology. Sketch of Natural History.

During the whole course of education, part of one day in each week to be appropriated to speaking and reading English.

RESOLVED, That no student shall be admitted to a degree, unless he shall have gone through the complete course, and, upon examination, shall have been found qualified; but that any student, who has not had a regular classical education, may at any time be permitted to join a class, for the purpose of learning any particular branch of science in which the class shall be engaged.

RESOLVED, That some one of the professors, masters and tutors, shall hereafter perform Divine service at the time mentioned in the resolve of the 4th day of June last; that the said service consist of first, some short select portions of the Holy Scripture, next some one of the three following form of prayer, and lastly, the Lord's prayer.

No. 1, Reported by the Principal.

Almighty and most gracious God! Possess our hearts, we humbly intreat thee, with a holy reverence of thy being and infinite perfections. May we feel a proper sense of thy awful presence upon our minds, at this time. Assist our weakness, compassionate our infirmities, and pardon our unworthiness. Enable us always to live mindful of Thee, the Author of our existence, and our constant benefactor! Make it our study and delight to honour thee, by obeying thy will in all things! Guide and conduct us, by thy good spirit, in the ways of virtue and true holiness, and may we all discharge our respective duties faithfully and conscientiously, having the fear of thee always before our eyes, exciting us to what is good, and restraining us from what is evil.

We would, in a special manner, intreat thy blessing upon us who are here present. Shed abroad thy grace in our hearts, and fill them with piety to Thee, our God, and with benevolence and charity to our fellow-creatures! Endue the minds of these thy children with a fervent and sincere love of every thing excellent and praiseworthy! May they always aspire after those things which are virtuous, honourable and of good report, and shun and detest whatever is mean and vicious! Preserve them from idleness and inattention, from evil company, and all bad habits! As they grow in years, may they grow in grace and useful knowledge, and in favour with thee; so that they may become a comfort to their parents, and a blessing to their country.

Preserve us, this day, from all danger, and particularly from offending Thee, our invisible judge, to whom we are accountable for all our actions! May we be prepared, by living virtuous and godly lives here, for everlasting life and happiness hereafter, through the merits and mediation of our blessed Lord and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, in whose comprehensive words we desire to sum up our imperfect requests. Our Father, &c. &c.

No. 2, Reported by the Vice-Principal.

Almighty and Everlasting GOD, who art more ready to hear than we to pray, and are wont to give more than either we desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy! Illuminate, we beseech thee, our understandings with the light of thy truth! Grant, that this seminary of learning may ever be the means of spreading the beams of knowledge amongst mankind, and that the rising generation may here receive those improvements in science, and above all, that ardent love of virtue and piety, which may render them the ornaments of their country, and the glory of humanity! Dispose their minds to the love of instruction! Turn their hearts from the ways of vice and irreligion, and grant, that in all their words and works, they may be observant of those great and important duties they owe to themselves, their fellow-creatures, and their God. These, and all other blessings, we beg, in the name and mediation of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Our Father, &c.

No. 3.

Holy and merciful Father! We humbly beseech thee to possess the hearts of these, thy children, with a perfect dependence upon thee, and such a love of what thou hast commanded, that their whole behaviour be conformable to thy holy will, and a comfort to their masters, parents, and all with whom they may be connected in this life. Incline their hearts to that which is good, and create in them an utter dislike of all evil! Give them an affectionate and teachable disposition, and an unfeigned love of truth and candour; preserve them from all malice, falsehood, deceit, fraud and evil speaking. When they are found in a fault, may they become sensible of the duty of amendment, and never attempt to put the blame on others, or to palliate their guilt.

O thou, who art the fountain of all wisdom, be graciously pleased to inspire us, whose duty is to instruct them, with such a portion of thy divine wisdom as may enable us to discharge our great trust with fidelity and success! May we ever bear in mind, that the best service we can render unto thee, our God, or to our fellow-creatures, is, by our earnest and successful endeavours, to incline the minds of youth with true and just sentiments of religion and goodness!

Give thy blessing to this seminary of virtue and useful learning! May all who are admitted into it be inspired with the love of wisdom, and preserved from sloth, idleness, evil company, and bad habits! As they grow in years, may they grow in piety and true knowledge, and in favour with thee, and all good men.

May we be preserved this day, and the remainder of our lives, by thy good providence; so that, at the last, we may obtain everlasting life and glory, through the merits and mediation of our blessed Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, who has taught us, when we pray, to say, Our Father, &c.

RESOLVED, That there be kept in St. John's college a register, in which shall be recorded, in respective columns, the name of each student; the date of his admission into the school; his age, or the date of his birth; the name, dignation and residence, of his father, his academical honours; and their date; and the date of his departure, or expulsion; that Mr. Richard Owen, master of writing and arithmetic, be hereby appointed to keep the said register, and authorised, in behalf of this board, to purchase a book for the purpose, not exceeding in price the sum of five pounds current money; that each student now in college, and each student who shall hereafter enter, shall pay to the said Mr. Owen, or his successor, for recording as aforesaid, the sum of eleven-pence, or one eighth of a dollar; and that the said Mr. Owen, or his successor, be entitled, for every certificate of the whole record respecting any student, to the sum of five shillings, or two thirds of a dollar.

RESOLVED, That there be in the said register a like record respecting each student who hath quitted the said college; and that the name of each student in the said register be inserted in his own hand writing, if the same can be obtained.

RESOLVED, That the principal of St. John's college have power to prescribe the form in which entries shall be made in the register directed to be kept by a resolution of the 15th of August last.

RESOLVED, That it be earnestly recommended to the professor and masters of the grammar school, and the master of writing and arithmetic, to pay a strict attention to the discipline of their schools.

RESOLVED, That it is the sense of this board, that the principal of St. John's college is empowered, by a resolve made on the 15th of August, to superintend, at his discretion, the conduct of all the students, and to restrain them from frequenting any place, which, in his opinion, may induce habits of useless expence, or neglect of their studies.

RESOLVED, That there be immediately opened in St. John's college a school for grammar and the English language, under a professor whose duty it shall be to teach the English language grammatically, and to carry students thro the Latin grammar, the Vocabulary and Corderius, so as to prepare them for being placed under the professor of languages.

That every student under the said professor of grammar and English, be taught writing in the said school, at stated hours, at the direction of the professor.

That any student in the said school shall, at the request of his parents or guardian, be taught arithmetic, and other branches of mathematics usually taught in English schools.

That no boy be admitted as a student in the said school until he hath learned the alphabet, and gone through the spelling book, or grammar, usually taught in English schools; and that the principal shall, in every case, determine right of admission agreeably to this rule.

That all the students under the professor of languages, who have not yet gone through the Latin grammar, the Vocabulary and Corderius, be immediately removed into the school aforesaid, and that hereafter no student be placed under the professor of languages until he shall be qualified as aforesaid.

RESOLVED, That hereafter each student in each of the schools shall be exercised every Saturday morning in delivering a speech or speeches in English.

RESOLVED, That after the present quarter, each student of the college, except poor boys on the foundation, or admitted to receive their education gratis, pay the annual sum of £. 6 10 for tuition, fire-wood, pens and ink, and that one fourth of the said sum be charged quarterly.

RESOLVED, That hereafter any person who shall have obtained the degree of bachelor of arts in St. John's college, may, at any commencement which shall be held after the lapse of three years from the time of obtaining the said degree, at the discretion of the principal, be admitted to the degree of master of arts.

RESOLVED, That the professor of languages, and the professor of English and grammar, with the assistance of Mr. Curran, at present assistant to the last professor, and of Mr. Owen, master of writing and arithmetic, do teach every thing at present taught in the schools of the said two professors, and in the school of writing and arithmetic; that each professor preside in his own school; but that the first professor have authority to make arrangements with respect to lessons, &c. and that the principal have a general superintending power over all the schools, as heretofore, and shall have the power of placing students in the said schools as he shall think proper.

RESOLVED, That from and after the next summer vacation, each boy entering the college, not a resident of Annapolis, shall board in the college building, and pay for his board and accommodation, mentioned in the last regulation, at the rate of £. 50 per annum, to be advanced quarterly, and returned occasionally; that the students already at college, be invited to board in the said building; that thereafter every professor and teacher, who is a single man, and not a housekeeper, shall board in the said building, to preserve order, and that he shall have the same authority as at any time heretofore hath been conferred on any master boarding in the college.

IN addition to the foregoing resolutions, rules and orders, the trustees, at a meeting held on the 12th instant, Resolved,

That henceforth every student entering the school of languages, shall be taught whatever is directed to be taught to the class in which he shall be placed. In case he will not conform to this rule, he shall be dismissed.

That henceforth there shall be two stated oratorical exhibitions in every year, viz. on the Friday of the first week of the May term of the general court for the western shore, and on the Friday of the third week of the annual session of the general assembly.

That all the students of each school, now at college, be requested to wear such cheap distinguishing uniform dress as the principal shall propose, and be approved by this Board; and that all students, hereafter entering, shall be obliged to wear the said dress, or be dismissed. But this order is not to be carried into execution until after the next Easter vacation.

N. B. The law for founding the college, viz. the act of 1784, ch. 37, contains many rules, particularly one directing four annual examinations. Instead of presenting them here, we refer to the collection of the acts of assembly lately published, or that in 1787.

THE trustees think proper here to present an extract from their address to the last general assembly, viz.

'It has ever appeared to them that Annapolis, of all other places, is the best calculated for carrying into effect the intention of the founders of St. John's college; and thence it was that they chose Annapolis for its seat. It is a deplorable idea of a complete education which does not comprehend in it manners, a knowledge of the world, and some training to politics. Of Annapolis, with respect to manners as well as morals, it may be invidious to make any remark. With respect to size and population, it is precisely the place for a college. It is not so large as that each student may not be known to every inhabitant, and it is not so small but that the whole body of students may be overawed from riots or dissolute behaviour. It enjoys that singular advantage of having the trustees on the spot, capable of superintending its professors and masters, and the idea of excelling in the eyes of these men will ever be a powerful incentive to the students.—It is here that youths may be trained to the art of government, that most useful, most noble, most difficult of all sciences.—It is here, that attending the public debates the inenuous, ardent youth, will catch the flame of patriotism, and imbibe a laudable ambition.'

Experience has evinced, that the trustees acted judiciously in choosing Annapolis for the seat of St. John's college. They avow, that at no seminary whatever has there been less disorderly behaviour amongst students than at St. John's college. A riot amongst its students has never been known; but, on the contrary, they have in general been noted for the correctness of their behaviour, and exemption from those vices which too often disgrace public schools.

The trustees are sensible that reports have been circulated, tending to impress the idea, that the students of St. John's college are extravagant and dissipate. Now admitting it could be proved, that in the course of fifteen years, there have been some few instances of young men who may have been too expensive in their dress, and have devoted too great a portion of their time to the polite society to which their connexions, or their own address, had introduced them—the trustees at the same time must be suffered to observe, that unhappily mankind are too apt to form general conclusions from particular facts, and to condemn a whole institution on account of the conduct of a few of its members. They presume to remark further, that the irregularities of students at schools whose situation is less conspicuous, may escape notice, whilst thousands may watch the proceedings at St. John's college, and amongst them may be persons disposed to blast its reputation, and bring about its destruction.

By order,

NICH. CARROLL, President.

In ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, February 19, 1805.

N. B. It might, perhaps, have been more satisfactory, had the date of each resolution been given. But it is hoped that it will be sufficient to state, that with the exception of the rules, or ordinances, passed on the 12th instant, there is not one regulation which has not many years existed; and that altogether they form, in the trustees opinion, a complete code so far as the objects extend.

It has been already intimated, that there are laws, rules, ordinances, not comprehended in the foregoing statement; and the trustees have referred to that of assembly, passed in 1784, for founding the college. It may not be amiss to say further, that there are other regulations, framed by the trustees, respecting college hours, vacations and punishments, which they did not esteem necessary to insert in an address, which, without them, might appear prolix. The said regulations were framed on great deliberation; they are similar to those other good seminaries; and like them they are liable at any time to be abrogated, altered or amended, as occasion may seem to require.